By Aj Ferguson

- Episode 4(Wandering)

Back In Karkaton, Fonciel is heading to Harold's Room after What she found out when she heard the words of the Old Man, "But my eyesights has been fading for Two Days!". As Fonciel opens the Door, She sees that Harold is not here, She begins to investigate as she questions what was Harold even doing here. "It's a little rude to enter without being invited" Harold said as he teleported behind Fonciel, Who was shocked. "Breaking and Entering, How Low of you" Harold criticized, "Technically I only entered, The Breaking Part comes when Derris figures out the Missing Pages" Fonciel replied. "And What will Derris do, Attempt to pursue me as he tried with the Shadowed M?" Harold replied back, Harold then began to transform. Fonciel was shocked, "What are you?" She questioned. "Something that all demons despise" As Harold transformed, A Red Yellow-Eyed Dragon emerged, "THIS is Me" Harold, Or Arkamis said. "Oh, It's one of these days." Fonciel said.

Meanwhile, Aska, Tialis and the Cloaked Girl make their way to Baron through a Desert Path, Tialis questions how long have they have been walking, The Cloaked Girl replies that She never bothered keeping track of time, Aska then points out that there's an inn in front of them, "What?" Tialis questions before hitting face-first into the Inn. As Tialis lies down unconscious, Aska and the Cloaked Girl pick him up and enter the Inn. As They enter, They are soon greeted by May, Who is disguised as the Innkeeper. The Cloaked Girl gets a room, as they are in the room, Aska sets Tialis down on a chair. As Tialis is unconscious, The Cloaked Girl decided to discuss something with Aska. The Cloaked Girl asked what Aska knew about the Great Sealer, Mario. Aska says that all she knows is that He was some person who would just somehow know something bad was going to happen, and when it happened, He would just appear to either "save" or "seal", When it was save, well let's just say that he couldn't save everyone, even if he tried. The Cloaked Girl then asks if she knows anything about the Village "Aeston", Unfortunately, Aska does not know of such a village, The Cloaked Girl leaves her alone and goes to sleep, Aska proceeds to do the same and sleep as well…..

Meanwhile, On Max's ship, Mario and Jonathan are sailing to the Zanmato depths, Mario asks Jonathan how were the depths created, Jonathan replies that they appeared right after Crossdio was sealed, Seemingly because the Dimension Rift hadn't been used in a long time. Suddenly, Time has stopped, And Mario is the only one able to move. Mario turns around and sees Iris Mandragoran Behind him. "Hello Again, Plumber" Iris Said, Mario asked what she was doing here, Iris just came to warn Mario that something has awakened from the Dimension Rift that Jonathan just had mentioned, Iris shows Mario an image of what has awakened, "This is a Worldbreaker, it awakened from a Hidden Shockwave that only the otherside could feel it, When you sealed Mirakaras with Blank Mode, You accidentally sent a warning to that Worldbreaker saying that something is not supposed to be here." Iris Explained, So She passed Mario her sword and told him to prepare for what approaches. Time Unfreezes, Mario sits back down, questioning Blank Modes Powers.

Somewhere, on a path to a different kingdom, Luigi wakes up in a Prison Cart. As He wakes up, He sees a skeleton in front of him. Luigi backs up into another skeleton, He looks around just to see he is surrounded by skeletons. Before Luigi could scream, A Hilt of a Broken Sword was thrown into his mouth to keep it shut. It was the Big Black who threw it at him, Luigi caught a look at her and tried to back up again, Only to back up into another skeleton, "The FitnessGram Pacer test is a-" The Skeleton

was saying before Luigi punched it's head off. The Head proceeded to bounce off the Bars, Hit Luigi, and Fall into Big Black's hands, "So…What's your Story?" Big Black asked, "Do You want to know about my Brother?" Luigi answers.
Back in Karkaton Again, Fonciel caught a glimpse of Harold's True Appearance, But She didn't seem to be afraid. "You don't… Fear Me?" Harold said confused, "Your face isn't something I care about. Plus, If you wanted me dead, you could kill me right now" Fonciel replied. Harold is Intrigued by this Answer, and is impressed with Fonciel, "Impressive, Derris has the Power, But Unlike you, He doesn't have the intelligence" said Harold, "Tell me about it, He refused to do a Failsafe plan, Even though it could have saved him" Fonciel Replied. "I assume you are here about the missing pages of that book?" Harold asked, "How did you know?" Said Fonciel, "I see everything here, Which is how I figured out what Derris was doing. As for Milo, He should be opening the door right about now" and as soon as Harold said that, Milo barged in. "YOU!" He said, Pointing at Fonciel, "YOU SENT ME ON A DEATH QUEST" Milo said, with the wounds he had gotten from his confrontation with the Shadowed M, Fonciel is confused by this, as she didn't even ask him to do anything, "Yeah right, and I made you look like an idiot, Oh wait… YOU ARE!" Fonciel defended. Milo got tired of Fonciel's Crap and sucker punched her in the face, Fonciel is knocked out cold as Milo begins to turn his head to Harold, "Sorry about that, Continue what you are doing" Milo said before he walks out of the room. "Get up, He didn't punch you that hard " Harold said as Fonciel slowly got up after the sucker punch, "Really? Why did you let him do that?" Fonciel angrily said, "Why did you?" Harold replied. ".....You mentioned the missing pages" Fonciel reminded, Harold passed two of the pages, but Fonciel noticed that's not all of them, "There were three pages, Where is the last one?" She asked, "You get the last one when you are ready to comprehend it" Harold answered. This made Fonciel think before reading the pages, ".....I'll just save these for later" She said, "Probably a wise choice" Harold replied before picking her up and throwing her out of the room, "Now don't ever let me catch you wandering around this room." He had said calmly as he closed the door.

Back at the Port, Arthur Magnus is reading through some books in the nearby library,
Meanwhile, Max Adelgard is just Yelling at the top of his Lung since his ship was stolen, As
Arthur was reading, He discovered something that could be able to overpower the Zanmato,
Max is still screaming his head off until Arthur throws the book at him, "Ah Shut up. I found
something useful we could do until those Two return with your ship." Arthur said, Max picks
up the book and reads through until he reaches page 50, "Empyrean, A heavenly sword
gifted to kings of men. This was the Blade to counter the Power that guards the darkness, It
was a sword only worthy to those of light." Max read, "Didn't you wield the Zanmato? Why would YOU be that of light" He said, "Let's just say, We'll be ready for her" Arthur said. Max had calmed down after this, "Alright, whatever you say." Max had said as he got the head start before Arthur did, "This time, It will be different…" Arthur said as he walked behind Max.

Back at the Inn, Tialis woke up five hours later, "Good Morning, Aska" Tialis said… But there was no answer, "Um… Good Morning?" He said again, But Aska was missing from the Bed,
And so was the cloaked girl. Tialis rushed out of the Inn, checking from left and right, But
there was nothing in sight, "Aska? Girl that I don't know?" Tialis had said, But once again…
No Answer. As Tialis searched, He noticed footprints on the ground that only one way, Straight ahead.
Remembering his fight with Derris, He knew very well that only disaster would come from this.

Back with Luigi, he wondered how long he had been with the Big Black for, No one bothered to stop Her, But then again, The Skulls on the wagon would explain a lot, so he dared to ask the question, “So uh…. Whose skulls are these?” Luigi asked. The Big Black slowly turned her head towards Luigi, easily scaring him, But She explained who was who as quickly as she could. “This one is from a Soldier in Baron, That one is from some man biting his thumb at me. Oh! And this one was from some wannabe sealer, I sure ended him fast.” She explained, Luigi was even more scared of her, But Wagon suddenly stopped. “Uh… Why did we stop?” Luigi scarfully said, “We’re here.” The Big Black answered. She pointed her figure to a castle far from here, and Luigi has some deja vu just looking at it, As if he had been there before…

- Episode 5(The Noose of Fate)

Meanwhile, On Max's Ship, Mario had fallen asleep as
reaching the Zanmato Depths is taking a long time, Jonathan had grown tired to the point that he steers with his foot, But all of a sudden, The Ship had stopped. Mario wakes up because of this and tries to see why they stopped, But is then knocked unconscious…

Back at the Desert, Tialis is following the straight line of footsteps which seemed to be endless, the only thing new about it is the body print, hinting that the culprit has in fact kidnapped Aska, So Tialis continued on until something new appears.

Back with Arthur and Max, After a long hike, They managed to find the location of Empyrean. "Woah, That's a pretty tall tower" Max said, "Especially with the fact that there is no door" Arthur looked and drawed his swords out, Starting to climb the tower, "Oh come on, That's not fair!" Max said due to the fact that he only has one sword while Arthur has two, But that changes when another sword is thrown beside Max, "Enough whining and more climbing." Arthur had said. Max picked up the sword and began climbing the tower.

Meanwhile, in Karkaton, Fonciel and Milo are waiting at the door for a delivery, "So… What are we waiting for again?" Milo said, "Just for someone to finish their job" Fonciel replied. Twenty minutes later, The delivery came, "So who ordered a Coward in Green?" The Deliverer said. The Package was Luigi and the Deliverer was Big Black, "Right here, Just place near that pillar, We'll discuss our deal afterwards." Fonciel said, "What deal?" Milo asked but was pushed aside by Big Black as She put Luigi beside the Pillar. "So… Let's talk about my Job here" Big Black said, "Ah, You're here" A Figure said before walking out of the Meeting Room, Harold Arkamis, Who arranged this Operation in the first place. "Come in, We've got work to do." Harold said, So Big Black and Fonciel walked into the Meeting Room and got to business, "Why am I being excluded from this" Milo asked himself.

Somewhere, In a Pyramid in the middle of the desert, Aska finally wakes up from her nap, "So you finally wake up" A Voice said. "...Who's… there?" Aska asked, Magnus looked at her with regret, Knowing well that his fate might as well have been sealed but Knowing that she is in her emotionless state, She won't know anything. "Hey Aska, How are you doing?" Magnus asked. Aska looks at him and while not entirely knowing who he was, attempts to smile as she feels that she is fine, which makes Magnus almost cry. "Oh, hey…" Aska said, "Who were you again?", Magnus just looked at her, "Just rest, Aska", He told her, and casted Sleep on Aska.
"So, how goes extracting that core?" asked May, "Nowhere without killing her" Magnus replied, even though he could die at any time, he just didn't want to end the life of someone who barely knows their own. "You really just want her alive, don't you?" May questioned, Magnus replied in silence, "You know, She's already dead. with that core inside on her, She's just a walking corpse with a mind of her own" May explained, as much as Magnus wanted to punch her, he couldn't due to the fact that she had the Zanmato in her hands, "Why do you even need this core anyways?" Magnus asked, "...I just need to be complete." May responded. And just like that, Magnus realized what was going on, The Zanmato and May are slowly becoming one, and it just needs enough power to reach its true potential, Which made Magnus also realize

that She probably had just saved Arthur from that Cursed Blade. Magnus just stopped thinking about the blade, as he can not undo the dangers he unleashed.

Back with Mario and Jonathan, Mario wakes up in a cell separate from Jonathan, noticing his weapons and equipment are gone, “Ah, so you finally woken up?” said a voice. Mario looks to see who it is, just to see a pirate, “You have a lot of nerve to show up on MY Waters” said the pirate, but Mario was too distracted by the fact this pirate is a mere short girl. “....How are you supposed to be a pirate? You’re too short.” Mario said, While this angered the short pirate, She ignored it and introduced herself, “I am Adela Fairwind, You will address me as Madame Fairwind”, Mario knows that will just get annoying, but at this point, he already has a plan in mind. “Uh-huh….. Then could you explain why these are YOUR Waters?” Mario asked, but Adela already left the room. “So I believe you have a plan, right?” Jonathan asked after fake sleeping, Mario simply just touched the cell door, and it just fell down. “Simple, We escape” Mario answered and got rid of Jonathan’s cell door, and just like that, They started to make their escape.

-To Be Continued-

Meanwhile, At some point, Mario’s Time Machine arrived in Exalis, “Huh… This wasn’t on the list” Mario said, so he went to visit a Port nearby. As Mario looked through the town he saw a group of pirates escaping with an Inn’s gold, So he tried to stop them with just one perfect fireball throw, and it worked. Mario returned the gold to the Innkeeper and went on his way. Many years later, In a forest, Mario’s Time Machine is vacant, because despite Mario leaving this time period, The Time Machine managed to make itself a fixed object in the timestream, never truly leaving the year it was in.

- Episode 6(The Plumber and the Ship)

As Far as Mario was concerned, He and Jonathan were kidnapped by a Short Pirate known as Adela Fairwind. As for Jonathan, All he thought was someone was trying to stop them from reaching the Zanmato Depths. As the Two made their way through a hallway, Mario stopped when he reached a window, “Why did you stop?” Jonathan asked, “....This isn’t just a ship.” Mario replied, which made Jonathan take a look. This was in fact, not a ship, It was bigger than just a ship, This seemed like a galleon, Because there was no way a ship could handle this much weight. “Looks like we’ll have to plan accordingly” Jonathan said.

Back with Arthur and Max, They have reached the Top of the Tower, Empyrean in sight. Arthur got up easily, while Max was just exhausted, “Man… I really hope this sword was worth the climb” Max said, But Arthur ignored him as he looked at the sword. He walked towards it carefully, reaching his hand out, only for the sword to reveal the spirit within it, “Wielder of the Zanmato, You dare approach this sacred area?!” questioned the spirit. Arthur stepped back but then stepped forward knowing that he must get that sword, “Sorry, But I must fix a mistake I made!” Arthur answered, “Then show me, Show me your resolve!” The Spirit replied. It turned into a perfect copy of a younger Magnus, Who taught Arthur how to wield a sword. Arthur and the Spirit engaged into a fierce battle, with Max being forced to spectate the fight. The Spirit attacks with a downward slash, Which Arthur dodges, But the slash was a distraction, leading up to Forward thrust that gives him a flesh wound. The Spirit begins to do the attack again but Arthur grabs it and does an upward slash, pushing it a few feet away from Him, Arthur quickly engages before it could get up, ending up with him getting kicked in the chest twice. The Spirit began to use magic, Primarily Thunder Magic, Which Arthur absorbed with his Dual Swords, and began to perform a special technique of his, “Shunraiken!” Arthur yelled as he thrusted his sword into the Spirit’s chest, Who managed to dodge it but ended up still getting hit by the lightning bolt. The two both jump back and cross-slashed into each other, Arthur spins one of his swords and stops the spirits attack, and uses the other sword to push the spirit away. “Hmph, You’re good…” The Spirit said, Arthur ignored its words and engaged with it again, only to be caught Lightning-made chains, “But I’m better.” The Spirit proceeded to crane-kick Arthur, Breaking the chains. Arthur fell to the floor, almost beaten, Max ran over to check on him, “Argh… Thanks for nothing man..” Arthur exclaimed, “This guy REALLY does not want me touching his sword.” Max looked at the Spirit, and had an Idea, “What if you just… Sheathed your swords?” Max said, Arthur was about to yell at Max but then thought back to Magnus….

“Take this sword, I don’t need it anymore. You’ve proved yourself already.”

Arthur got up and slowly walked up to the spirit, Who was about to attack him, but Arthur simply put away his swords and looked at it, The Spirit stopped… and looked at him back, “I was the Wielder of the Zanmato, But as far that has gone, I’m not worthy for that kind of power…” Arthur said calmly, “When I first received the Zanmato, I thought I could help Exalis, change the world.. But that sword probably declined the moment I gave into its power without giving it something back… I don’t deserve that power, and I probably don’t deserve this power… And so, I accept what shall become of this place” Max was shocked by Arthur’s words, not sure if he was telling the truth or not, The Spirit walked over to Arthur, placing it’s hand on his shoulder while becoming a copy of him, “....You pass.” The Spirit said as it turned into Empyrean, the heavenly sword. “You may not be light, or a king of men, But somewhere… You will

be one of the people who will stop this world's false destiny…" Empyrean explained. Arthur held the sword high and closed his eyes when he lowered it, "Thank you… Empyrean" He said, "Okay, I'm not the only one who heard something about a False Destiny, Right?" Max questioned but Arthur simply just grabbed Max and got down from the tower with one of his swords sliding on the walls.

After a long hike through the Desert, Tialis finally comes across a pyramid, "Alright, She has to be in here" He said to himself and entered the Pyramid. Magnus attempted to remove the core from Aska as painlessly as possible, but of course, the more he tried, The more he heard voices, "No! Don't come near here!" "Don't come for me!" Were the words he heard, Magnus still had to try despite the voices, "Would you risk a life to save your own?" Was the next voice he heard, And then… He stopped, "Why… Why did it have to be you…" Magnus said to himself, He could remember where it all began but that thought was stopped by Tialis entering. "Magnus?!" Tialis questioned, Magnus just looked at Tialis and replied in silence, "Ok, First off, Why and How did you kidnap Aska?" Tialis asked, Then May appeared in front of Tialis, "Who do you think did it to her?" May said, "Who else could know what was in that core?" Tialis looked at Aska, and noticed a blackened, broken core on her chest, "Magnus, What did you do?" Tialis asked but once again, Magnus replied in silence, "ANSWER ME!" Tialis furiously yelled out, "....You have been told about the Thagyar incident, Right?" Magnus asked. Tialis thought back to it, and one thing came to mind

(Flashback: In Thagyar, A disaster struck, The Entire village was engulfed in flames, A White-haired woman attempted to defeat the perpetrator, but failed, The perpetrator then attempted to kill her, Only for her sister to step and take the shot."

"You told me there were two survivors of that incident, The Two siblings" Tialis answered, "But I never told you how the other sister lived" Magnus explained, Tialis realized that the sister was none other than Aska Forges, "You're telling me that SHE was part of the Thagyar incident?!" Tialis furiously questioned, "That's right, and guess what? She didn't even actually live that day, She's actually still dead." May answered. At this point, Tialis doesn't even know how to handle the situation but got an idea, "You two are coming with me" He said while raising his bow, Magnus understood but May just laughed at him, "HAH! You think you can stand against me? With just a bow? Quite useless, don't you think?" May said, "This so-called 'useless bow' actually helped defeat Derris, What makes you think that you're any stronger?" Tialis questioned, which annoyed May, She pulled out the Zanmato and was ready to kill Tialis where he stood, "Go ahead, give me your best shot" She said, but all of a sudden, A part of the roof collapsed, with a female figure exiting out, and attacked May at high speeds, Luckily for Her, She was able to block the attack, "Which one is it, Which one of you took my sister?" The figure said, May was going to blame it on Magnus, but He had already disappeared, "It's you… from the posters" Tialis said worryingly, Crimson Forges returned, and she was mad. "So you were the one who took her away, She's even unconscious!" Crimson said, Aska almost woke up from this, but couldn't fully stay awake, "Aw, Isn't a family reunion so sweet?" May mocked, "Not like you would understand" Crimson retaliated, Tialis picked up Aska and got out the Pyramid, "If there is one thing that I'm going to do, I'm going to make sure you never see my Sister again!" Crimson yelled as she pushed back May and the Zanmato, "Hmph, Let's see what you got." May said, and they began to engage in battle.

Back on the Ship, Mario and Jonathan have made it out of the hallway and have reached the lower deck, Where they find Max's ship being held, "Alright, So what we need to do is get that ship out of here" Jonathan said, "Ok, But how the hell are we going to do that with the amount of Pirates surrounding it" Mario asked, Then all of a sudden, Air began to pierce through each pirate guarding the ship, Jonathan's hand was pointed out directly and only at them, Mario was surprise at Jonathan's control over the wind, "Let's get going already!" Jonathan said and grabbed Mario's hand and headed towards the Ship. Then…. Mario stopped, and he looked to the side, "What's wrong?" Jonathan asked, but Mario ignored him and walked towards a large crate. He split it open and was shocked to see what was inside, "No… It can't be…" Mario thought, because Iris was actually right, He had been here before. Mario knew this because as he opened the crate, He saw his Time Machine inside, It never left the Time Period, As it had split itself away from the other, "....What if I never actually left? What if I somehow caused a Paradox?… What if…. There's another me?" Mario said. And as soon as he said that, Many Pirates came out of hiding to ambush them, "Damn it, Was that a trap?" Jonathan thought, "Hah, Looks like you're not the only one trying to get that thing." Adela said after leaving her hiding place. "What could you possibly want with this Machine?" Mario asked, "To sell it of course, What would I need this thing for? We headed to Nadamis to put this thing on Auction." Adela answered and explained, Mario noticed that Adela never even looked into the machine, neither knew what it did, then again, that was probably a relief since she couldn't mess around with time. Then all of a sudden, A Pirate disturbed his thinking by attacking him, But the Sword simply broke the moment it hit him, Jonathan kills said pirate by piercing their lung with his wind magic, "Hm, You seem more durable than most people, Let's see how long you two last" Adela said and ordered the Pirates to attack them with all they got. The Pirates surround the two, Jonathan prepares his sword, and Mario pulls out his Staff… and they prepare to attack every single pirate in the room. The Fight starts off with Jonathan using Wind Magic to once again pierce through the Pirates, Some pirate didn't get hit, So Mario casted a spell called Blindstorm, Using the smoke of fire to blind the enemies, leaving an opening for Jonathan to attack and kill some of them. Some Pirates tried to use this to their advantage, but some of them were homeruned by Mario's Hammer, The others were hit by one of Jonathan's techniques, "Shishisenkou!" He yelled as he blew the pirates away along with the smoke. This gives Mario an Idea, as another herd of Pirates attack, He tells his plan to Jonathan and prepares a fireball, Jonathan rushed at the herd with fast speeds, and Mario threw the fireball, "Shikou!" Jonathan yelled, reusing the technique he said 55 words ago, and as the Fireball hit the ground, "Bakuenjin!" Jonathan also yelled out, as a large explosion appeared after Jonathan slammed his sword onto the ground, Mario then realized that this will cause the ship to sink, So he enter Blank Mode for a split second to freeze time on where the hole would've occurred, "Dammit, They're unstoppable!" One Pirate said as they began to flee, "Do you think we should get out of here now, Jonathan?" Mario asked but suddenly an arm flew into his face, "Mama-mia…" Mario said as he finally saw what Jonathan was doing, he targeted every single pirate on the ship, not even catching his breath for a moment, "Ryuusou Senkuuha!" Jonathan yelled as he divided any Pirate in a close range into pieces, "Jonathan! Stop!" Mario screamed, but his demand fell deaf to Jonathan's ears, So Mario tried once more, but it suddenly just sounded different, "....Claire…" Jonathan thought as he had stopped. He looked around and saw what he had done, even Adela, who was watching from the middle deck's window, was shocked from the amount of bloodshed Jonathan had dropped. Jonathan looked at his hands, "Damn it, Not again…" He said and dropped to his knees, Mario attempted to comfort him but was suddenly stopped by a mysterious portal appearing. A tall figure exited the portal, and unsheathed their sword, "Are you by any chance, The Myrmidon of Mandragoran?" It asked, Mario knew it was talking to him as he is the only one who knows Iris, "You're not supposed to be

here” The Figure said and began to cast the Hell Gate, Jonathan saw this and pushed Mario out of the way, He was lifted into the Air and the Hell Gate opened under him, “Sorry Sealer, But You must survive!” were Jonathan’s last words to Mario as he fell into the Portal, Possibly to never be seen again. “Jonathan! NO!” Mario yelled out, But it was too late, He couldn’t save him, as he couldn’t save Luigi…

“So what about this Tower?” The Big Black asked, Harold brought in a drawing board to explain the entire thing, “The Tower is meant for primarily the Shadowed M, or as have heard, Aska Forges” Harold explained, “Aside from you, I hired many other people for this job to make sure that core is handled” The Big Black smiled at Harold, “So… I’ll finally get to meet another of me…” Big Black thought. “Alright I have to ask, What is with this Core that it is so important?” Fonciel asked, Harold flipped the Board around, showing a picture of the sealer known as Crossdio, “What I plan to do is become what you see here, I just need to collect the Last three pieces of his soul” Harold explained to Fonciel, who was having some doubts about the plan, “Excuse me but, What’s my reason for being here?” Luigi asked as he was forgotten, “You? You’re the bait.” Harold answered.

-To Be Continued-

- Episode 7(Plumbershock)

At this point, Mario is on the ground almost broken, Jonathan has disappeared into the Hell gate summoned by a mysterious being, “What are you doing here? We haven’t even started yet.” The Figure said, “Started? What do you mean by that?” Mario asked, “I knew it, There were different time periods” The Figure said, “I am Rondo Xeronaught, Worldbreaker of Zanmato”, Mario pulled out Iris’ sword immediately after he heard who he was, “So you’re what awakened from the ‘otherside’.” Mario said, pointing the blade at Rondo, “You’re wasting your time trying to attack me with that sword, XERO RELEASE!” Once again, A Beam spirals out, This time being in a shade of Red, Xeronaught had decided to not hold back on his first encounter with Mario, He rushed in and knocked back the plumber. Mario managed to keep his ground and began to throw multiple fireballs, Xeronaught deflected most of them with his sword but that was a distraction leading up to Mario using Firebrand on his hand, “Barukanfisuto” Mario yelled as he punched Xeronaught fiercely in the face. Mario thought this had worked, but Xeronaught surprise-attacked him from the back, He was sent flying into a pillar, which broke upon impact. “Welp, Time to get out of here!” Adela Fairwind who was still watching said as she ran away to a hidden escape boat and abandoned ship. Mario attempted to get up, Only for Xeronaught to keep him on the ground beneath him, “I told you, You’re wasting your time.” Xeronaught said, As is about to strike the finishing blow, Mario came up with a risky plan, He went into Blank Mode and repeated the words Xeronaught said before, “Xero Release!” The Plumber’s body began to shine and go into the air for a moment, The light slowly turned blue and Mario came out in a new form, “This…. Is Blank Mode…. Xero!” He said, As he temporarily stopped time around the ship so it didn’t sink. Mario engaged Xeronaught with this form, starting off with a swift punch in the guts, Forcing Xeronaught away, then teleported behind him, caught him and threw him to the ground. Xeronaught attempted to get back up, But He was trapped in a circle, surrounded by Mario clones, “This is it” Mario said, as he began to jump to the air, feathers began to fall, The Clones kicked Xeronaught into the Air, and Mario delivered the final blow, “Ryuuko… Houshuuken!” Mario yelled as he punched Rondo Xeronaught downwards into the Circle, Causing a huge explosion. As the smoke cleared, Rondo was on his knees, out of Xero Release, Mario turned off Blank Mode and approached him, “What do you mean different time periods?” Mario asked, Rondo had a smirk on his face, “You will not finish your quest, You’ve only defeated one of us” Rondo said, not answering the question, “Alright, Here’s a better one, Why call me ‘Myrmidon of Mandragoran’?” Mario asked, “You blindly trust people who would manipulate you, You’re just a lapdog.” Rondo answered, leading to the Plumber punching him in the face, “So why should I trust you?” Mario said, redirecting Rondo’s words back at him. “I will repeat, You will not finish your quest” Rondo said as he punched the ground beneath, causing it to shake, “What did you do?!” Mario asked furiously, “The Depths….. Are closed....” Rondo said, as his body disintegrated… Mario fell to the ground again, as he had realized that he believes that he has no chance of meeting Luigi again, But got back up remembering that his Brother wouldn’t want to see him like this. So he got onto his Time Machine, hoping it still works, but then Mario thought to himself, “What if it doesn’t work anymore?” So he tried to turn it on, and attempted to travel before May took Luigi, but the only part of the machine that was broken was what made time travel possible, The Engine. So Mario was forced to use the teleport mechanic, and got off the ship safely, leaving Max’s ship behind….

Back at the inn, Tialis waited for Aska to wake up, while trying to handle the fact that she is just a walking corpse, “Nobody… Nobody deserves this type of fate” Tialis said to himself, leaving him with a

choice, Kill Aska and free her soul, or Just let her roam this world, There is no winning. But He doesn't choose anything, "We came here to check on the king, Not to find the truth about you." Tialis said to the Sleeping Aska. He left the Inn, heading to Baron, once he fully left, Aska woke up, "Finally, took him long enough" Aska said, but it was not her, "It's time to head back to Exalis, love to see that face of Arthur's when I'm finished with whatever he has now." Crossdio had taken over, Once more, She was the Shadowed M, and in a blink of an eye, she had disappeared.

Meanwhile, Arthur had returned home with Empyrean, finally having something on par or even better than the Zanmato, "Alright, Let's test you out" He said, as he grabbed a training dummy out of his house. The Dummy was placed on the ground, Arthur stood back a few feet, He took Empyrean and the Bolt Sword, and Slashed, The Dummy was cut by a shockwave instead of being hit directly, "Whoa!" Arthur said, "This is better than the Zanmato!" Even though the Zanmato gave him access to the Dimensional Rift, But what it was lacking was Range, which the Empyrean had, Arthur wanted to know what else it could do, but decided not to hold onto it for too long, just in case it would try to control him. And with Max, Who was building a new ship because Mario and Jonathan aren't coming back with his anytime soon, He wanted to test out a new idea, And decided to make the thing able to fly, So Max made blueprints and started building his new ship.

Back in the Desert, May has left the Pyramid, Bruised and beaten. She couldn't match Crimson's swordsmanship, "Damn it, How could I lose?" May said to herself, She then looked at the Zanmato, "Why have you forsaken me…?" May asked the Sword, which simply had no answer. All it did was point in a direction she was familiar with, "What do you mean the Zanmato Depths have closed?" May asked the Sword again, But the sword stopped answering, "Screw this, I'm going to find Magnus, and make sure he pays for his cowardice." May said as she wandered the desert.

-To be Continued…. In Episode of Memory-

“To anybody who reads this, I have disappeared from my World, and ended up in an entirely new one. They call this the Shadow Hell, which I believe is derived from the fact most people in here ended up being sealed by the Hell Gate, Or were just not sealed properly. I don’t know how long I’ll be here, or How long until I meet my fate, But it doesn’t matter at this point, I need to find a way to escape from here. This note came from Jonathan Ferguson, in case anyone is reading.”